consideration. The other main suggestions for consideration include :—

— reduction of surplus man power;

— rationalising the size of DTC to 3500 buses;

— withdrawal from loss making routes;

— capital restructuring of DTC;

— reimbursement by Govt. of the losses on account of concessional passes; and

— revision of the student concessional passes.

Repair of Vivekananda Setu in West Bengal

2557. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared a project of Rs. 12 crores for the repair of the Vivekananda Setu at Bally in West Bengal;

(b) whether the requisite funds have since been released; and

(c) if so, when the same was released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A provision of Rs. 2 crores has been made for the work during 1992-93 and will be met out of the total allocation of Rs. 9.00 crores for National Highway works (excluding externally aided projects). A sum of Rs. 2.5 crores has already been released as 'on account' payment. Further funds will be released depending on expenditure incurred.

Ropeway in Himachal Pradesh

2558. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that safety norms were violated by the promoters of the ropeway leading to recent mishap at Parwanoo in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are in process of approving another five new ropeway projects in the State; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken adequate care of the safety aspect of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d) The ropeways are a State subject under the Constitution of India Entry No. 13 of VII Schedule-List II, State List. The State Government is competent to sanction such projects. Hence, the Central Government is not concerned.

Extension and Maintenance of National Highway No. 55

2559. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken the charge of newly declared National Highway No. 55 from the West Bengal Government;

(b) if so, the funds allotted for its extension and upkeep for the year 1991-92;

(c) the funds released till date; and

(d) the details of the works taken up so far thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir. After declaration of the road as a new National Highway on 6-11-90, its development and maintenance has become the responsibility of Govt. of India.

(b) and (c) At present there is no proposal for extension of this National Highway beyond Darjeeling. For maintenance of this National Highway, Rs. 53.82 lakhs were released during 1991-92.

(d) Two improvement works costing Rs. 82.149 lakhs and three repair works costing Rs. 48.103 lakhs have been sanctioned so far on this National Highway.

2560. [Transferred to 21st December, 1992]